

Crash experts find evidence of explosion

US seeks formal FBI role in Lockerbie inquiry

● Experts searching the Lockerbie disaster wreckage have found damage probably caused by luggage exploding
● The first bodies were released to relatives last night and are being flown to the United States for burial
● The American State Department is expected to make a formal request for FBI agents to be involved in the inquiry
● Four men are due to appear in court today in Dumfries in connection with alleged looting of the crashed aircraft

By Harvey Elliott, Tony Dawe, Michael Evans and Kerry Gill

The hardest evidence so far that the Pan Am crash over Lockerbie was caused by a bomb was discovered yesterday by investigators searching the wreckage from Britain's worst air disaster. Parts of the plastic lining from one of the cargo bays of the Boeing 747 were found with heat damage which was caused most probably by luggage exploding in the hold.

Experts believe that the damage and injuries are incompatible with a catastrophic structural failure of the jet, the other possible cause of the disaster. British and American officials insisted, however, that the cause of the crash which killed at least 269 people must remain open until further investigations are completed.

The research centre was closed for the Christmas period, explosive experts were called in yesterday to start a forensic and metallurgical examination on a badly damaged passenger suitcase discovered earlier in the week. The other damaged suitcases found yesterday will also be sent to the centre and are said to show more significant signs of metal penetration. A bomb inside a pressurized aircraft can send metal hurtling outwards at a speed of 24,000ft per second, leaving easily recognizable marks.

TODAY
Portfolio
PLUS
Accumulator
● Portfolio resumes today, offering two prizes — the Accumulator fund, standing at £80,000, or the £4,000 daily prize. Prices: page 24.

THIS WEEK
First Light
● All this week *The Times* is serializing Peter Ackroyd's latest novel, a lyrical mixture of science and comedy. The third extract appears today on page 16.

Charades
● A simple quiz to test your knowledge of the arts: four more questions appear today on page 18.

IN PART 2
Oil price rise
North Sea oil prices are expected to rise today following the accident which has stopped production from three platforms. page 21
Pipe on song
Martin Pipe, the National Hunt trainer, had five winners, including Bonanza Boy in the Welsh National at Chepstow, to make his total for the season to 99. Page 26

INDEX

Home News	2,3,5,6
Overseas	7-9
Business	21-24
Sport	26-30
Archaeology	14
Arts	15
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Books	16
Court & social	14
Crosswords	18,20
Diary	12
Entertainments	18
Features	11,12,17
Information	18
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Media & Marketing	25
Obituary	14
On This Day	12
Science Report	19
TV & Radio	14
Universities	15
Weather	20

Crew delivers Christmas baby girl at 39,000ft



Proud parents: Mrs Maureen Capaldi and her husband, Franco, with baby Catherine Faye in Limerick maternity hospital.

Co-pilot acts as mid-air midwife

By Patrick O'Hanlon

A jumbo jet acquired an extra passenger at 39,000ft over the Atlantic on Boxing Day after a torchlit delivery by the co-pilot of a premature baby girl. The British Airways Boeing 747 from Barbados to Gatwick was diverted to Shannon airport, where a waiting ambulance whisked baby Catherine Faye — two months early and weighing 3lb 11oz — and her mother, Mrs Maureen Capaldi, who lives in London, to St Munchin's maternity hospital, Limerick, where mother and baby were doing fine yesterday.

Mrs Capaldi, who was 31 weeks pregnant — one week within the recommended limit for air travellers — went into labour three hours after take-off. "It was getting a bit panicky and I went to give reassurance, convinced that the birth was not going to take place," Mr Nick Eades, the co-pilot, said. "But by the time I got there it was all happening. "The head was already out. When the contractions stopped, the baby was there. It was really a do-it-yourself birth."



Mr Nick Eades, the co-pilot who acted as midwife.

Labour leaders planning hard arms bargaining in Moscow

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour leaders are expected to rule out a straight missile-for-missile deal with the Soviet Union in any future negotiations for the removal of the British independent deterrent. With a high-level Labour team due to fly to Moscow next month for talks as part of the party's crucial defence policy review, it has emerged that Labour would be looking for a far more substantial response than has been suggested by previous contacts between the Labour leadership and the Kremlin.

"something for something" deal involving dismantling the British deterrent as part of multilateral arms control negotiations or a bilateral agreement between Britain and the Soviet Union. Although no decisions have been taken, senior members of the defence group appear to be leaning, in any negotiated settlement, towards the multilateral option, possibly involving the removal of Trident as part of the Start 2 strategic arms limitations talks. The danger of a straight bilateral deal is that it would be seen as giving the Soviet Union a veto over Britain's defence policy, Labour sources say.

The Labour team going to Moscow will be headed by Mr Martin O'Neill, shadow defence secretary, with Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Foreign Secretary. Its other members are Mr Ron Todd, transport union general secretary, and Mr Tony Clarke, the national executive committee's chief representative on the group. Mr Todd's presence on the trip is a reminder of the difficulties Labour faces in abandoning an outright unilateralist policy.

He cast his union's 1.25 million votes against the leadership at the party conference in October, but Labour leaders are reasonably confident of getting a non-unilateralist policy through the conference next year. In any negotiated deal — assuming that the policy review does not reassert the party's unilateralist stance — Labour leaders believe that Britain would be able to strike a hard bargain with Moscow. Removing Britain's deterrent would mean far more than the simple withdrawal of nuclear firepower equivalent to 500 warheads, it is being pointed out. The Soviet Union would effectively gain the removal of the second most important decision-making centre in the West in any potential nuclear conflict and would be expected to respond accordingly.

Iran releases jailed Briton

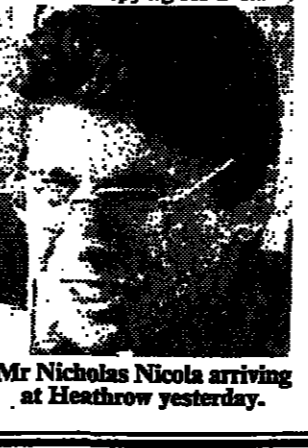
By Nicholas Beeston

Iran signalled yesterday that it is serious about improving relations with Britain when it freed a British prisoner held for two years in Tehran's Evin prison. Mr Nicholas Nicola, aged 23, a British citizen of Greek Cypriot origin from North London, arrived at Heathrow on an Air Iran flight looking slim and fit but refusing to speak to journalists.

His unexpected release was greeted with relief by the Foreign Office after months of tortuous diplomatic negotiating in the last gesture by Tehran that it is intent on normalizing ties with London. It could also herald the release of a second British prisoner, Mr Roger Cooper, and Iranian help in freeing the three British hostages in Lebanon, Mr Terry Waite, Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan.

Britain maintains that neither he, nor Mr Cooper, who is accused of spying for Britain, have ever been charged or tried by the Iranian authorities. Unlike Mr Cooper and the Beirut hostages, Mr Nicola's case never drew prominent political attention, because of his poor mental condition and the bizarre circumstances of his alleged crime. Mr Cooper's brother, Paul, said: "The fact that they are choosing to release people held without trial from jail is a good sign but I don't think we should expect Roger's release immediately. In the long term it is good for Roger."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Naturally the British Government is pleased with the Iranians for releasing Nicholas Nicola. At the same time we remain concerned at the continued detention of Roger Cooper and hope that he too will be released in the future." Commenting on the



Mr Nicholas Nicola arriving at Heathrow yesterday.

Bodies of mother and son in sunken car

By Ian Smith

The bodies of a woman and her son, aged seven, were found by police frogmen in their submerged car yesterday, 48 hours after the Christmas Day discovery of her daughter's body on a river bank nearby.

The tragedy came after the disappearance of Mrs Elaine Smith, aged 33, her son Christopher and daughter Claire, aged three, from the family home in Churchover, near Garstang, Lancashire, nearly a month ago, after the children's father said he intended spending Christmas with his lover. Police now believe Mrs Smith drove the family car into Glasson Dock basin on the outskirts of Lancaster when a side door burst open, sending Claire floating down the River Lune.

Media electoral frenzy fails to fire Soviet public

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

With three months to go before the Soviet Union elects its new-style Parliament, the media are having a field day. The first stage of the process, nomination meetings for constituency candidates to stand in nationwide elections next month, opened on Monday and the electorate "from Kamchatka on the Pacific to Kaliningrad on the Baltic" is being exhorted to plunge into the democratic process with a will.

People are said to be "learning how to be voters", calling for "openness, democracy and high standards" all over the place, and giving the representatives of "the people's interests" a "mandate of trust". The elections, scheduled for March 26, are being proclaimed as an event of "tremendous political significance", which will "involve millions of people in the electoral process" for the first time.

Media electoral frenzy fails to fire Soviet public

One hundred and seventy MPs have signed a document stating that British support for a human rights conference in Moscow would be "premature" and expressing concern at the "continued denial of basic human rights in the USSR". Their statement appears as an advertisement in *The Times* today.

Whether the new-style Parliament will represent the interests of the people more accurately than the present Supreme Soviet does will depend on whether more representative people have been nominated as candidates. Present campaign issues echo the general official concern to further perestroika and combat pollution. Specific economic and political questions — such as price reform, privileges for officials, and co-

operative and private enterprise — have not found their way into candidates' published statements. Reports of the first nomination meetings suggest this is going to be an uphill struggle. So far, most have been held at workplaces. Though people will vote according to where they live, and the candidates will mostly be local, the workplace remains the main source of nominations.

The front page of the official trade union paper, *Trud*, yesterday published reports of meetings in different parts of the country where most of the nominees had been members of the current Communist Party leadership. An organization at Ashkhabad in Turkmenia had nominated President Gorbachev, and a factory in Yoshkar-

BOODLES
ESTD 1798
Diamonds 0.65 carat. £650
Square diamonds 1.35 carats. £1275
Diamonds 2.30 carats. £2450
Princess diamonds 1.00 carat. £995
Diamonds 2.25 carats. £2000
BOODLE & DUNTHORNE
HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST COLLECTIONS OF ETERNITY RINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN
58 BROMPTON ROAD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON
TEL: 01-584 6363
ALSO IN LIVERPOOL - CHESTER - MANCHESTER

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

RICHARD ALEXANDER MP
 RT. HON. MICHAEL ALISON MP
 RUPERT ALLASON MP
 DAVID ALTON MP
 DAVID AMESS MP
 RT. HON. PETER ARCHER QC MP
 JACQUES ARNOLD MP
 DAVID ATKINSON MP
 ROBERT BANKS MP
 SPENCER BATISTE MP
 ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK MP
 STUART BELL MP
 VIVIAN BENDALL MP
 WILLIAM BENYON MP
 DAVID GILROY BEVAN MP
 TIM BOSWELL MP
 ANDREW BOWDEN MBE MP
 RT. HON. SIR RHODES BOYSON MP
 RT. HON. SIR BERNARD BRAINE MP
 MARTIN BRANDON-BRAVO MBE MP
 JULIAN BRAZIER MP
 IAN BRUCE MP
 ALISTAIR BURT MP
 CHRISTOPHER BUTLER MP
 MENZIES CAMPBELL CBE QC MP
 ALEXANDER CARLILE QC MP
 MATTHEW CARRINGTON MP
 JOHN CARTWRIGHT MP
 WILLIAM CASH MP
 SYDNEY CHAPMAN MP
 DR. DAVID CLARK MP
 MICHAEL COLVIN MP
 ANTHONY COOMBS MP
 SIMON COOMBS MP
 JAMES COUCHMAN MP
 JIM COUSINS MP
 STEPHEN DAY MP
 TIM DEVLIN MP
 GEOFFREY DICKENS MP
 BOB DUNN MP
 HUGH DYKES MP
 DAVID EVANS MP
 DAVID EVENNETT MP
 MARGARET EWING MP
 RONALD FEARN MP
 DAMI PEGGY FENNER DBE MP
 BARRY FIELD MP
 FRANK FIELD MP
 SIR GEOFFKEY FINSBERG MBE MP
 DUDLEY FISHBURN MP
 JANET FOOKES MP
 DEKEK FOSTER MP
 CECIL FRANKS MP

We welcome President Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Britain as further evidence of the desire for progress in East-West relations which has been continuing since the 1975 Helsinki Accords on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

We urge a further strengthening of the Helsinki process in all its areas: security, economic co-operation and human contacts.

While acknowledging some progress, we view with concern the continued denial of basic human rights in the USSR particularly:

- ◆ the continued detention of prisoners of conscience
- ◆ the denial of the right to free emigration to 385,000 Soviet Jews who have expressed a desire to leave
- ◆ the introduction of restrictive new emigration rules in 1987
- ◆ the limits still placed upon religious and cultural expression.

Mr Gorbachev is likely to request that a Human Rights Conference be held in Moscow. Naturally we must assess the good faith of the Soviet Union in the light of improvements in the above conditions. We look forward to the day when these improvements take place at which time we will be able to give our warm support to the holding of such a Conference. Support at the present time would be premature.

GEORGE GARDINER MP
 JOHN GARRETT MP
 RT. HON. DR. JOHN GILBERT MP
 DR. ALAN GLYN MP
 JOHN GORST MP
 SIR RAYMOND GOWER MP
 SIR ANTHONY GRANT MP
 HARRY GREENWAY MP
 NIGEL GRIFFITHS MP
 PETER GRIFFITHS MP
 WIN GRIFFITHS MP
 NEIL HAMILTON MP
 DR. KEITH HAMPSON MP
 JEREMY HANLEY MP
 JOHN HANNAM MP
 KEN HARGREAVES MP
 DAVID HINCHLIFFE MP
 KENNETH HIND MP
 GERALD HOWARTH MP
 RT. HON. DAVID HOWELL MP
 GERAINT HOWELLS MP
 ROBERT G. HUGHES MP
 SIMON HUGHES MP
 CHARLES IRVING MP
 TIM JANMAN MP
 HON. GREVILLE JANNER QC MP
 IEUAN JONES MP
 ROGER KING MP
 TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE MP
 GREGORY KNIGHT MP
 DAME JILL KNIGHT DBE MP
 MICHAEL KNOWLES MP

MICHAEL LATHAM MP
 IVAN LAWRENCE QC MP
 EDWARD LEIGH MP
 GEOFFREY LOFTHOUSE MP
 HAROLD MCCUSKER MP
 ALLEN MCKAY MP
 ROBERT MACLENNAN MP
 PATRICK M'CLOUGHLIN MP
 DAVID MADEL MP
 HUMFREY MALINS MP
 PAUL MARLAND MP
 JOHN MARSHALL MP
 MICHAEL MARTIN MP
 ALAN MEALE MP
 SIR FERGUS MONTGOMERY MP
 RT. HON. JOHN MORRIS QC MP
 HON. SIR CHARLES MORRISON MP
 DAVID MUDD MP
 EMMA NICHOLSON MP
 RT. HON. GORDON OAKES MP
 WILLIAM O'BRIEN MP
 REV. IAN PAISLEY MP
 IRVINE PATNICK OBE MP
 RT. HON. SIR GEOFFREY PATTIE MP
 ELIZABETH PEACOCK MP
 RAY POWELL MP
 GILES RADICE MP
 KEITH RAFFAN MP
 RT. HON. TIMOTHY RAISON MP
 STUART RANDALL MP
 TIM RATHBONE MP
 JOHN REDWOOD MP

RT. HON. MERLYN REES MP
 GRAHAM RIDDICK MP
 MARION ROE MP
 WILLIAM ROSS MP
 PETER ROST MP
 JONATHAN SAYEED MP
 DAVID SHAW MP
 SIR GILES SHAW MP
 WILLIAM SHELTON MP
 GILLIAN SHEPARD MP
 COLIN SHEPHERD MP
 RICHARD SHEPHERD MP
 RT. HON. PETER SHORE MP
 CHRIS SMITH MP
 TIMOTHY SMITH MP
 REV. MARTIN SMYTH MP
 SIR JAMES SPICER MP
 ROBIN SQUIRE MP
 RT. HON. DAVID STEEL MP
 ANTHONY STEEN MP
 GERRY STEINBERG MP
 LEWIS STEVENS MBE MP
 ALLAN STEWART MP
 DAVID SUMBERG MP
 HUGO SUMMERSON MP
 IAN TAYLOR MBE MP
 TEDDY TAYLOR MP
 JACK THOMPSON MP
 PATRICK THOMPSON MP
 NEIL THORNE OBE MP
 MALCOLM THORNTON MP
 JOHN TOWNEND MP
 CYRIL TOWNSEND MP
 DAVID TREDINNICK MP
 DR. IAN TWINN MP
 SIR GERARD VAUGHAN MP
 GEORGE WALDEN MP
 GARY WALLER MP
 JOHN WATTS MP
 BOWEN WELLS MP
 MICK WELSH MP
 JOHN WHEELER MP
 ANN WIDDECOMBE MP
 JOHN WILKINSON MP
 ALAN WILLIAMS MP
 DAVID WILSHIRE MP
 MARK WOLFSON MP
 TIMOTHY WOOD MP
 MICHAEL WOODCOCK MP
 ANTHONY WORTHINGTON MP
 JAMES WRAY MP
 TIM YEO MP
 SIR GEORGE YOUNG MP

THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
 FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY.
 HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1

ough jai
 to cut
 victim lo
 for pupils
 on wors
 holes 'co
 each ye

IN
ON

Tough jail sentences 'best way to cut property crime'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Tough jail sentences cut crime against property more effectively and cheaply than increased numbers of police, according to a former Home Office economic adviser.

Dr David Pyle calculates that sending 10 per cent more offenders against property to prison would cut the crime rate by 8.5 per cent.

Longer sentences would also produce an 8.5 per cent cut. But increasing the number of police officers by 10 per cent would secure only a 3.2 per cent reduction in offences.

Dr Pyle, senior lecturer in economics at Leicester University, reports his findings in *Economic Affairs*, journal of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

He was dissatisfied by most work on the economics of crime and punishment using US data, and constructed an economic model of crime using data for a cross-section of forces in England and Wales. It used all forces except the Metropolitan Police and the City of

London. The results suggest that changing sentencing policy costs much less than increasing police numbers.

Each 1 per cent cut in property crimes, achieved by lengthening the time criminals spend in jail, costs £3.6 million, according to Dr Pyle's estimates.

Each 1 per cent cut achieved by sentencing more criminals to prison costs an estimated £4.9 million. But each 1 per cent cut secured by increasing police numbers costs £51.2 million, he says.

Criminals also respond to positive incentives. An increase in potential illegal gains encourages offences against property, while a reduction in unemployment discourages it, the study says.

"Rates of recorded property crime do respond to changes in deterrence and incentives, but the response is quite small."

"On the basis of these estimates it makes little sense to try to reduce property crime by employing more police officers", Dr Pyle reports. One

possible reason may be that some of these offences, such as burglary, are not directly deterred by, for example, extra police patrolling.

More police manpower can deter these offences only by increasing the detection rate, which is notoriously difficult, Dr Pyle says.

"Economic analysis of crime lends support to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policy of increasing police spending and imposing tougher sentences on convicted criminals in order to reduce crime."

Though the costs of these policies is considerable the Government has pursued them. And yet crime has not come down.

"What has gone wrong? The more than doubling of unemployment since 1979 has entirely swamped the deterrent effects of increased spending on the police and harsher sentencing. The net result has been a rise in crime, falling detection rates and increasing misery."

Smiling through the sales crush

MARC ASPLAND



By Robin Young

One happy January sales customer in Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, yesterday, carries his purchases high above the shoppers as the capital's West End celebrated the second coming of the Christmas shopping crowds. There were crash barriers but few people in Regent

Street and Oxford Street when the doors opened, although crowds grew during the day. "The queues are so short you would feel silly joining them", one woman outside Dickins & Jones in Regent Street said at 8.30am. Outside Selfridges in Oxford Street there were about 100 people to hear a dixieland jazz band's efforts to put them in a big spending

mood. In Manchester there were long queues winding round Kendal Milne in Deansgate and Debenhams in Market Street. In Lewis's in Market Street a big attraction was Christmas cards reduced to half-price for use next year and, at the store's Leeds branch, customers cleared 3,000 boxes of cut-price cards in the first 30 minutes.

Rape victim loses benefit after award

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A rape victim was deprived of social security benefit after receiving compensation, the National Association of Victim Support Schemes said yesterday.

The association is demanding a change in the rules. It says that many victims of violent crime had found themselves in the same plight. Mr Martin Wright, of the association, said: "One victim wrote to the Criminal Injuries Compensation

Board saying that she didn't want to receive her full award because she was afraid of losing her social security benefit".

The rape victim received £6,000 compensation and learnt from a Victim Support volunteer that she would lose benefit if she had been awarded more than £3,000, so she used the rest of it to pay off a bank loan and debts which had accumulated while she was unable to work.

Twenty months after she had received

her compensation, the department cut off her benefit payments.

The association says that benefits can be stopped if the compensation award is for £6,000 or more, although reductions can be made on a sliding scale after awards of between £3,000 and £6,000.

The Department of Social Security confirmed that payments received would be regarded as capital. The system was designed for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Plea for pupils to decide on worship

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Senior pupils at schools in England and Wales should be able to decide whether they continue to study religious education and to attend daily services, the National Association of Head Teachers says.

The association is to ask Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to amend the Education Reform Act so that pupils aged between 16 and 19 can have the right to withdraw.

At present the Act allows only parents the right to remove their children from religious education and the morning assembly.

Mr David Hart, the association's general secretary, said yesterday: "We have a unique situation where pupils have the right at 16 to choose which subjects they will do for A level, AS level or in any of the wide range of 17-plus examinations now available, with this one unique exception."

"In this one subject of religious education they have no rights; it is only their parents who have the right to decide whether they should continue religious education and, in addition, whether they have to attend a daily act of Christian worship. These young adults have no rights at all."

"I think when people sit back and reflect on this situation, which is almost an anachronism, there could be some changes."

"We are not asking for a blanket exemption of 16 to 19-year-olds, but for the Government to consider amending

the Act to allow the pupil to have the right to be excused. This was one aspect of the Act that was badly overlooked when it was being debated in the summer."

Mr Hart also spoke of an inconsistency in the Act which meant that the religious requirements applied to all sixth formers in schools and in sixth-form colleges but not to students in tertiary colleges.

They are covered by regulations for colleges of further education.

Mr Colin Alves, general secretary of the Church of England's General Synod board of education, said the points had been put to the Government and had been rejected.

"If a pupil is a member of a school then he is bound by the rules of the school", he said.

"The same applies to a sixth-form college."

"It has to accept the responsibilities of being under the school regulations as well as the benefits."

"It comes as a package and it is rather late in the day to seek a change in the law."

● The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is asking Mr Baker for urgent talks on restoring negotiating rights in time to settle teachers' pay claims for 1990.

It said: "The NAS/UWT will not suffer silently the loss of the basic trade union and democratic right to negotiate pay and conditions of service".

Road holes 'cost £220m each year'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Delays and poor standards in repairing the three million holes dug in roads and pavements every year cost Britain £220 million, according to a Department of Transport advisory committee.

The holes, dug by gas, electricity, water, telephone and other undertakings, also add to traffic congestion, the committee says.

It is calling for legislation which would make the utilities totally responsible for filling the holes and reinstating the surface when work has been carried out, instead of, as at present, the responsibility being divided between the utilities and local authorities.

It also wants improved standards of supervision and management, and workers to be trained and given certificates of qualification.

The street works advisory committee, chaired by Mr Stuart Mustow, a consulting engineer, was set up after the publication four years ago of the Home report on roads and the utilities. Consultations have lasted more than two years.

Mr Mustow says there is now almost unanimous agreement in his committee and among local authorities and the utilities that new legislation is needed to replace the Public Utility Street Works Act 1950.

Under the Act the utilities are responsible for temporarily making good the surface of a road or pavement after works have been completed.

But it is the local authorities which are responsible for the final resurfacing, which, to allow time for the filling to settle down, may not take

place for between six months and two years. During that time the temporary surface may have to be repaired several times, each time disrupting traffic.

Mr Mustow said: "On the very conservative assumptions that a third of the holes dug in Britain each year require extra attention costing £100, and a tenth of the holes result in adjacent damage costing £400, bad excavation and reinstatement is costing £220 million a year."

He says that in London alone 600,000 holes are made in roads and pavements every year.

If half of those are on carriageways, and if many could be reinstated in one operation, instead of in at least two operations, it could, significantly reduce congestion.

Mr Mustow says there are no remaining obstacles to the introduction of legislation, "but sadly a space has not been found in the legislative programme for this year".

Mr Geoff Littlewood, divisional manager for the south and west division of the Thames Water Authority, said the authority supported the proposals outlined by Mr Mustow. It was hoped that national standards would be set for workmen responsible for filling trenches and reinstating the road surface, with men being trained to those standards.

The London Electricity Board said it had a very large construction programme to meet a big increase in demand in the West End, the City and docklands. Almost all the jobs required some street works.

Upsetting children can save a tobacconist £400.



If someone apparently under 16 asks for a packet of cigarettes, tobacconists must say no. The penalty for saying yes could be a fine of up to £400.

ISSUED BY THE TOBACCO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE BRITISH TOBACCO INDUSTRY



Radioactive waste report may upset electricity plans

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

A closely guarded report on the disposal of radioactive waste, due to be delivered to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, before the end of this month, may severely disrupt his tight timetable for electricity privatization.

The report, from UK Nirex, the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive, says the Government must quickly decide on a long term site for nuclear wastes.

Temporary stores, it will say, are dangerous and costly and a single, central deposit is urgently needed. Nirex will hint that unless the Government makes a firm decision, the privatized electricity industry will have no guaranteed deposit for the radioactive material that will be generated, and could face gigantic bills.

The report will recommend at least three possible sites for a deep store, leaving Mr Parkinson with the unenviable task of alienating public opinion over an issue from which the Government has repeatedly backed away.

A previous effort by Nirex to get government backing for a long-term store founded in 1987 when Tory MPs, including the then chief whip, Mr John Wakeham, rebelled.

This time Nirex is recommending sites in Scotland, Cumbria and Cleveland, away from the Conservative Party's heartlands.

At the top of the new list is an excavation next to the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant run by British Nuclear Fuels. Sellafield already stores highly radioactive waste and at Drigg, near by, is Britain's only existing store for low level wastes. Sellafield is recommended because of its rail links and because it is already a concentrated storage point.

Nirex proposes drilling a deep mine running under the Cumbrian hills and fitting it as a permanent store.

Other candidates include a site next to the Dounreay reactor in Caithness. Nirex proposes drilling a mine out of the Atomic Energy Authority's property into land owned by Lord Caitness, who conveniently happens to be a Conservative minister of state at the Department of Environment.

The third, possibly most controversial candidate, is an existing mine at Billingham on Teesside.

The mine - for anhydrite, a kind of salt used in chemical processes - was excavated by ICI and has been abandoned. Previous explorations on the site by Nirex occasioned noisy protests, and although Billingham would probably be the cheapest option, the large number of people in Stockton and Middlesbrough, near by, might rule it out.

Government sources have indicated that a decision on the Nirex report could come from Mr Parkinson as early as February. The later he leaves it, the more potential confusion there may be surrounding the issue of nuclear power generation after privatization.

After the Government ordered Nirex to stop its search for a shallow trench as the future deposit for low level wastes, it has been investigating geological options for a deep mine. It has ruled out drilling beneath the sea on the ground that public opinion is vehemently against it.

Nirex experts have visited Sweden to study a man-made installation in which drums of waste are packed in concrete and sealed into compartments.

The existing repository at Drigg is not yet full, but is not thought likely to offer long term prospects for storage. Nirex has been concerned only with low and intermediate level wastes - caused for example by the use of X-rays in hospital medicine, or material discarded by nuclear industry workers.

Highly radioactive material from within nuclear reactors is stored on the site of nuclear generating plants and there are no plans for a central depository.

Balmy weather brings out early blooms

PETER TREWEN



Plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have reacted to the balmy airstream from the Canary Islands which brought Britain the mildest Christmas holiday weather on record by blooming early. With London warmer than Rome yesterday at lunchtime, the Japanese variety of wood hepatica being studied by Mr Tony Hall has flowered two to three months earlier than usual.

Heffer says leaders have lost faith in socialism

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A senior Labour left winger accused leading members of his party yesterday of lacking faith in socialism and adopting a Thatcherite agenda.

Mr Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool, Walton, who was defeated by Mr Roy Hattersley for the deputy leadership, said in a new year message to his constituency party that even senior party figures had lost confidence in the Labour movement's future.

Without mentioning names, he said: "They accept the attitude similar to the rabbit before the stoat - either petrified into inactivity or into meaningless activity which they trust will meet with the approval of their political enemies". He said those

Labour members who believed the party could not win the next election were seriously wrong, and continued: "There are others, both in the movement and outside, who reflect the Thatcher view that socialism is either dead or has no real future. They are equally wrong."

Those who lacked confidence in Labour included some "in leading positions". They were looking for a way forward through Thatcherism, proportional representation and coalition government. "Others seek not simply to change party policy but to fundamentally change the nature and character of the party, thereby transforming it into a party which accepts a capitalist system but with a slightly more benevolent face."

Police and the public

Force may release a code of conduct

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A statement of mission drawn up by Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and his senior commanders may be put to the public and politicians for their views.

A draft version of the code has been circulating among officers and staff for some weeks. The response is said to range from enthusiasm to anger where the code is seen as insulting. Overall, police are said to be in favour of the 10 points.

If the London force issues the statement others may fashion a similar one for their own officers.

In the next few weeks Sir Peter will decide whether to include the code in his annual strategy report to the Home Secretary as part of the general plan for the year ahead, or start asking London's MPs and consultative groups to give their views.

Sources within the Yard expect that the commissioner will decide to get public views on the code which may later be printed and distributed throughout the force.

The draft code suggests the purpose of the Metropolitan Police is to: uphold the law fairly and firmly; maintain the public peace; act with honesty and integrity; adopt the highest standards; and be compassionate and courteous to others; and uphold individual rights. They should behave in a manner which is neither racist nor sexist; serve the public; be a cost-effective service; and co-operate and consult with the community and other agencies in pursuing the police purpose.

The code was drawn up after a consultants' report on the image of the Metropolitan Police pointed to the need for the police to have a clear list of goals. There was no common sense of purpose.

When the force was created in 1829 it was given a mission statement setting out general aims and this had been re-interpreted in a booklet produced by Sir Kenneth Newman, Sir Peter's predecessor. But the mission statement needed further revision and the work had already been started even before the report was completed.

The report, by Wolff Olins, noted there was "no consistency of views on the overall mission of the Met nor how each individual contributes to the whole". Officers had a high degree of independence in the way they worked.

The report called for the force to feel more united and be clearer about what it was set up to do. It should adopt a more positive attitude towards the concept of service.

The report, *A Force for Change*, also suggests changing management operations and the presentation of the force's public image through factors such as the appearance of police stations.

'Workshops' used to improve image

By Our Crime Reporter

One of the country's biggest police forces is brushing up its image for the new year and has sent thousands of officers back to school to learn how to deal with the public.

More than 3,500 members of the Thames Valley force and 1,400 staff have been attending one-day "workshops" to teach them new skills in handling the public.

Senior officers believe the courses have already helped to create a 15 per cent drop in complaints against the force.

The workshops and other ideas being tried by Thames Valley could be taken up by other forces.

Thames Valley took advice from Wolff Olins, the design consultants who have recently carried out research on the public image of the Metropolitan Police.

The workshops are part of a programme called "Make Contact" which also includes the use by officers of special visiting cards so that the public can identify who they deal with and where to find them. The cards include the name, station and telephone extension where the officer can be reached.

The workshops also involve videos and courses in body language.

Instructors set officers scenarios to consider, so that they can decide the best way to solve them. They might, for example, be asked how to handle an irritable member of the public at a station counter.

The programme may also lead to a radical change in police uniform and stations. The force is considering the wearing of identity badges by all officers so that they present a more human face to the public than simply the traditional police number on their shoulders.

Public areas of police stations may also be brightened up and opened to the public much in the way that some institutions such as banks have now created larger public areas.

The contact programme was initiated by Mr Colin Smith, the chief constable of Thames Valley, and Mr Barry Rutherford, his deputy, in a drive to build closer links with the public.

Mr Smith said he believed his force offered a first-class service, but this had to be communicated to the public.

Junior officers have followed up the workshops with suggested improvements in the way stations deal with the public by placing greater emphasis on the importance of officers responsible for general station duties and answering queries. These should no longer be regarded as "sin bins" for officers.

THE B&Q D.I.Y. SALE

NOW ON with bargains throughout the store plus....

an EXTRA 10% OFF EVERYTHING

OFFER ENDS 2ND JAN

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

27-30 December	8am-8pm
New Year's Eve (Saturday)	8am-5pm
New Year's Day (Sunday)	Closed in Scotland
Bank Holiday Monday	8am-8pm



NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

*10% OFF Promotion represents genuine reductions on current marked prices, however, some of these products may not have been offered at the marked price for 28 consecutive days in the prior 6 months. Promotion excludes B&Q Homecentres and Furnishing Supercentres. All prices include V.A.T. *10% OFF Promotion ends 2nd January 1989, and excludes purchases of B&Q gift vouchers.

Mystery


Israel

eres m

evaluate

ns cons

st for r



Call for Mi

g's mod

US lists European goods to be hit by tariffs in meat war

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States has drawn up a list of goods that will be subject to retaliation once a European ban on American meat treated with growth hormones goes into effect on January 1.

Among items expected to be listed this week are Danish hams, French cheeses and Italian canned tomatoes. They will be subject to 100 per cent tariffs under an executive order that has been signed already by President Reagan.

The move, to be announced by Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, has been designed to "make sure the Europeans know exactly where they stand if they go ahead", Mr Kelly Shipp, an aide to Mr Yeutter, said.

American officials said it appeared that nothing would stop the imposition of the Community ban.

Washington made a formal request last week for a delay in the action, but officials said the Europeans turned it down.

No meetings or even telephone conversations were planned before January 1.

The retaliation affects about \$100 million (£58 million) of annual imports from the European Community.

The proposed list was scaled down after the EEC exempted from the proposed import ban about \$20 million of imported

American meat used as pet food.

American consumer groups support the European action, arguing that the hormones are damaging to health.

But they have not fought to ban the use of hormones in meat consumed in the US because, they say, there are higher priorities.

"We are still very supportive of what the Europeans are doing," the Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, a pressure group specializing in food issues, said in a statement.

The ban on hormone-treated meat was to have taken effect a year ago, but implementation was delayed in the hope of reaching an understanding with the United States that would prevent a clash.

In the event, there were only sporadic negotiations in which neither side showed any inclination to compromise.

In the meantime, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina decided to export hormone-free beef.

American officials, who acknowledge that more than half of American cattle are treated with hormones, said the Community would require certification by the Agriculture Department that meat was free of hormones, in turn

requiring the creation of an expensive bureaucracy.

The disagreement comes amid broader clashes over food trade policy arising out of European Community plans to create a single market by 1992.

The Reagan Administration has made it clear that it will take counter-measures against any European retaliation to its latest move.

Senior officials said that Washington and Brussels would reassess the situation after the sanctions went into effect, in the hope of preventing the skirmish escalating into a trade war.

The Agriculture Department insists that there is no conclusive proof that the five growth hormones allowed in the United States — testosterone, oestradiol, progesterone and two synthetic compounds, zeranol and trenbolone acetate — pose a health threat.

The US has offered to try to resolve the conflict under the standards code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Officials emphasized that the thrust of American policy was to seek the removal of global restrictions preventing free agricultural trade, which is seen as a way to reduce the huge US trade deficit.

Mother Theresa comforts Armenia



Mother Theresa, left, with some of her Sisters of Charity, consoling a girl survivor in a Yerevan hospital yesterday.

Kremlin streamlines relief effort

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet authorities are tightening up the organization of the disaster relief effort in north-eastern Armenia to try to accelerate the distribution of supplies.

The Politburo commission overseeing the operation has set up to co-ordinate transport services and that organizations and officials would be fined if they did not unload freight fast enough. The North Caucasus rail department has been split into three sections, each of which will be monitored constantly, and a system of priorities established according to which fuel, prefabricated housing, and building brigades will take precedence.

The changes follow more than two weeks' criticism about delays and disorganization in the provision and distribution of supplies to the areas affected by the December 7 earthquake, in which an estimated 55,000 people died.

Meanwhile, evidence continues to emerge of how the aftermath of the earthquake has exacerbated existing tensions between Armenia and the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan. A Soviet newspaper said yesterday that medical staff at a military hospital in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, had been threatened with reprisals if they continued to treat Azerbaijani patients. The army paper, *Red Star*, said that inflammatory

leaflets had begun circulating in the hospital after reports that an Azerbaijani mechanic was being treated there. He was the single survivor of an air crash which killed nearly 70 Soviet servicemen being flown to the city of Leninakan to help with the earthquake relief work.

The original reports had avoided identifying the mechanic, Balayev, as an Azerbaijani, noting instead that he came from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Yesterday's article cited the incident as evidence that some Armenians were trying to conceal the fact that Azerbaijan, like all the other Soviet republics, had offered to help in the relief effort.

Immediately after the earthquake, the Soviet media carried many reports of Azerbaijani expressions of sympathy and offers of help. Later comment suggested that these had been widely dismissed by Armenians as propaganda and had only inflamed passions further.

Rumours that there had been dancing in the streets of Baku and that some Armenians had received greetings telegrams from Azerbaijanis after the earthquake were more readily believed, and the Health Minister confirmed that antipathy between the two republics had led to Azerbaijani offers of medical help being turned down.

Yesterday's article in *Red Star* said

that Azerbaijanis had so far contributed five million roubles (£5 million) to the national disaster fund.

But it admitted that the fate of some relief consignments from Azerbaijan was unknown, suggesting that they might have been diverted or even destroyed en route. Earlier reports have described Azerbaijani convoys being turned back at the republic border or transported under continual harassment from local people.

The same article also revealed that the unofficial Armenian Karabakh Committee, which has led the campaign for the transfer to Armenia of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, is continuing to operate despite the detention of five of its leaders in Yerevan the weekend after the earthquake. Attempts were being made to set up subgroups of the committee in colleges and factories to agitate for the release of its leaders.

Central Soviet publications are being careful to match reports of continuing nationalist activity in Armenia and measures against it with similar reports on Azerbaijan. From details in the reports, it is clear that nationalist sentiment over Nagorno-Karabakh has permeated the upper echelons of official organizations in both republics, and a settlement of the dispute will be more difficult now than before the earthquake.

Strikes herald Belgrade reforms

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

Fresh strike threats and public calls for the sacking of the federal Government have increased the pressure on Yugoslavia's leaders as they prepare to launch a New Year package of market-orientated economic reforms.

In the past few days trade union leaders throughout the country have threatened to strike for higher pay as doubts grow that the reforms will halt soaring prices.

At the same time, one leading Yugoslav newspaper called on the federal Parliament to sack the Yugoslav leader, Mr Branko Mikulic, over the Government's "failure" to present a convincing and consistent programme for economic recovery, while another, *Borba*, the authoritative daily, stated bluntly that the Government which had brought the country to the "brink of catastrophe" should resign.

Railworkers in Serbia warned they would strike unless their salaries were increased by 60 per cent.

From Macedonia, the most southern and Yugoslavia's poorest republic, the unions warned that the situation could easily explode after the recent spell of new price increases reaching a climax in last week's announcement that the Yugoslav electricity board intends to increase prices by more than 70 per cent — the third increase in six months.

Union leaders in Croatia were examining demands issued earlier for a general strike in the republic.

When the Government came into office almost three years ago Yugoslav inflation was 80 per cent. It has now soared to 230 and economists forecast it will top 400 per cent by the end of next year.

The Communist Party, which has enjoyed a political monopoly for four decades, is also under threat from alternative ideologies.

In Slovenia, where the political climate is most liberal and the challenge to the party most open, an alternative political party is about to be set up.

Black clashes leave 35 dead

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Gunmen armed with an AK47 semi-automatic rifle burst into a house in Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg, spraying it with bullets, and killing four men and wounding two other people, South African police reported yesterday.

At least 35 people were murdered during a violent Christmas in Soweto, in townships in the Vaal triangle south of Johannesburg, and on the West Witwatersrand, and the police said. There were seven attempted murders and 40 rape cases reported.

Soweto, covering 40 square miles and home at a conservative estimate to 1.25 million people, accounted for 26 of the murders. One was a man, aged 63, robbed of £375 by gunmen who burst into his room in a bachelor hostel for workers recruited from distant Bantustans — the nominally independent black homelands — and shot him dead as they left.

A black police constable was one of the four men shot dead in the AK47 attack. The Soviet-designed weapon is supplied to insurgents of the outlawed African National Congress, but the police refused to say yesterday if they believed it had been an ANC attack. Previously, they have

stated that not all AK47 shootings are the work of the ANC, and that criminals also have access to the weapons.

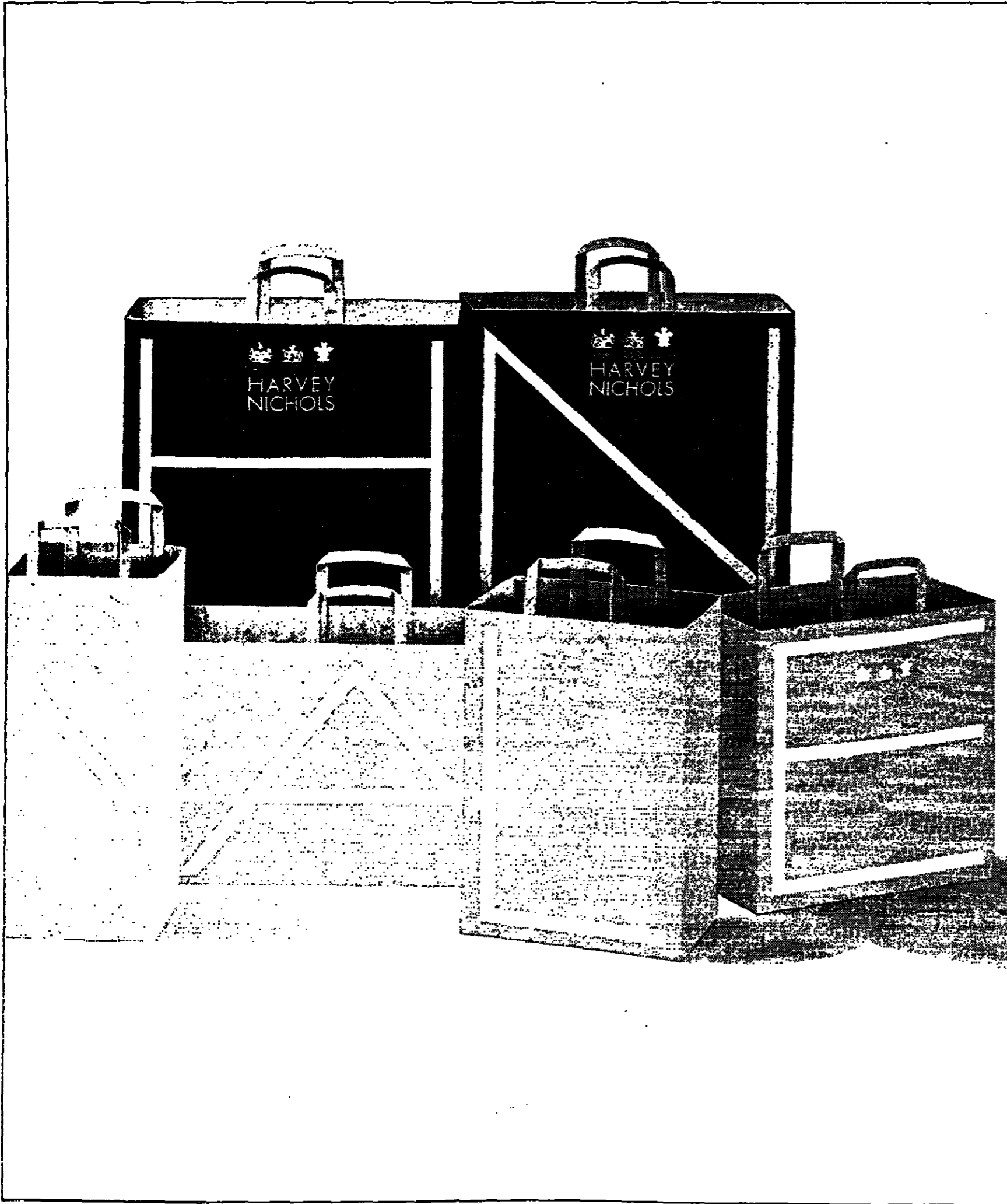
The murders of three men in the Natal townships were also reported yesterday, bringing the area total since Christmas Eve to at least 16. Police said that most of the deaths resulted from clashes between opposing black groups.

Landmine deaths: Two civilians, a man and a woman, were killed and another seriously injured when their vehicle struck a landmine near Oshikati in northern Namibia close to the Angolan border on Christmas Eve.

stated that not all AK47 shootings are the work of the ANC, and that criminals also have access to the weapons.

The murders of three men in the Natal townships were also reported yesterday, bringing the area total since Christmas Eve to at least 16. Police said that most of the deaths resulted from clashes between opposing black groups.

Landmine deaths: Two civilians, a man and a woman, were killed and another seriously injured when their vehicle struck a landmine near Oshikati in northern Namibia close to the Angolan border on Christmas Eve.




The HARVEY NICHOLS SALE STARTS TODAY

Bargain hunters shopping with their Harvey Nichols Account Card receive an extra 10% off sale prices until closing time on Saturday.

To open an account just visit Customer Account Services on 4 (subject to status), or telephone 01-235 5000.

BAG A BARGAIN!

This Week's Opening Times
Today 10am to 8pm
 Thursday and Friday 10am to 8pm
 Saturday 10am to 6pm

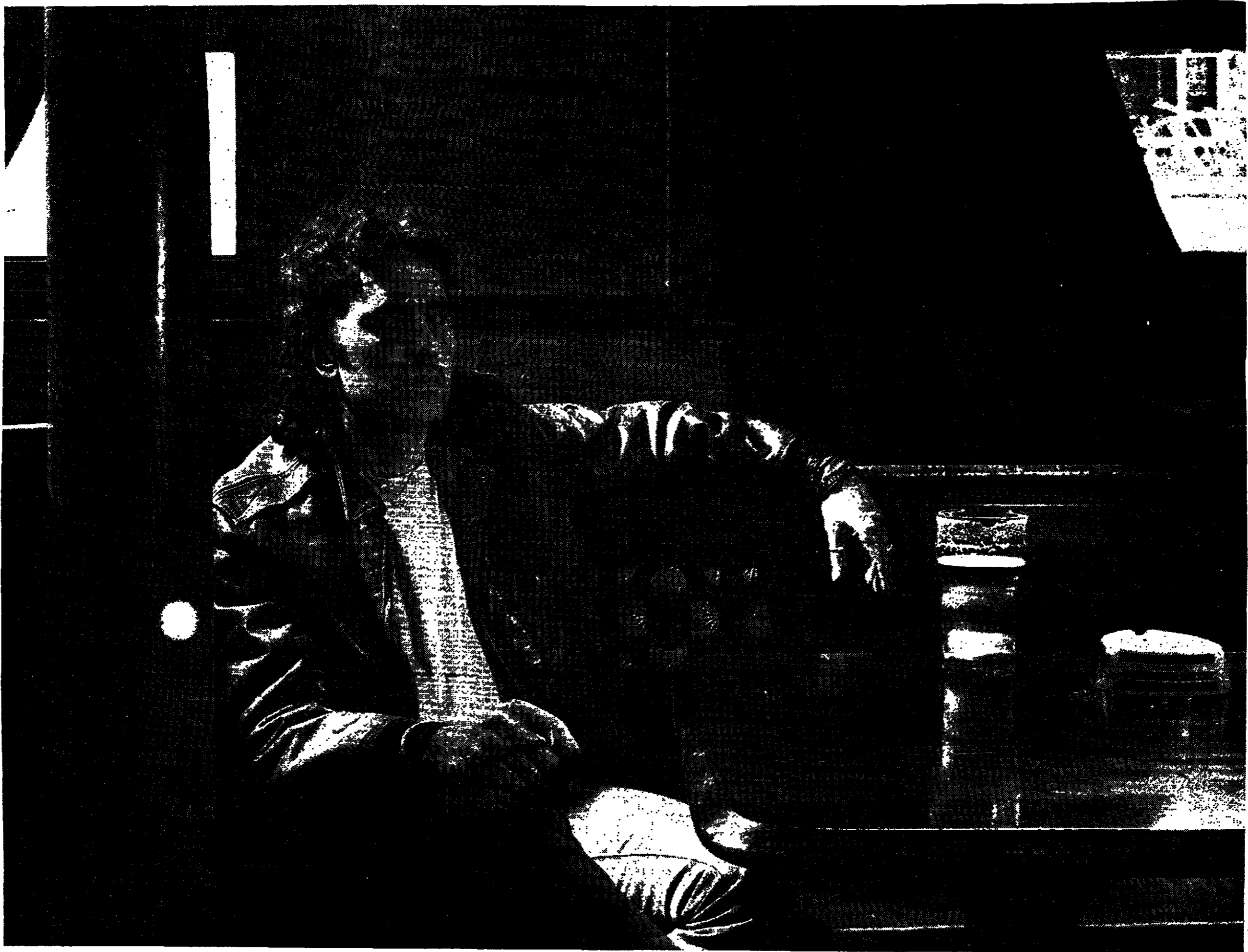

 KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON SW1

Label block

ed King

Suspect role in

HOW SECURE IS YOUR CAR? ASK AN EXPERT.



Look at him. Hardly the backbone of the pub quiz team is he?

Yet when it comes to "doin' motors" there's little he doesn't know.

And, as he'll grudgingly acknowledge, some of the least rewarding motors to do are Vauxhalls.

The security coded stereo systems don't help for a start. Should he get his grubby little paws on one, he'll find it totally unusable, and, more to the point, totally unsaleable.

Mind you, that's provided he's actually been able to get into the car.

The Cavaliers, for instance, all have side profile cut keys, with equally ingenious locks.

Giving our hero the not so simple task of discovering the 1 in 2,000 combinations needed to open the door.

He'll also discover that, along with the special keys, the Cavaliers, Carltons and Senators have deadlocks.

So even if he resorts to using the old half-brick, he still couldn't lift the lock button to open the door.

And to make his life even more difficult, accessories include security alarms, glass etching and locking wheel nuts.

All of which has helped us win the very first annual (take a deep breath) Anti-Theft Award from the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association.

An award decided by an august panel of legitimate security experts.

Including a couple of senior police officials.

It's a commendation we are, of course, exceptionally pleased to receive.

Almost as pleased in fact, as hearing our friend above describe Vauxhalls as "totally *†@*†! useless wastes of time."

Now that's high praise indeed.


**VAUXHALL. ONCE DRIVEN,
FOREVER SMITTEN.**

How

It was possible for every system to be provided with not just one, but two back-ups

Spreat

USM REVIEW

Soundtracs prepares to make waves in the radio revolution

By Carol Leonard and Michael Clark



Todd Wells: confident about prospects

Mr Todd Wells, enterprising chairman of Soundtracs, which designs, makes and markets computerized sound consoles for recording studios and broadcasters, is confidently awaiting the announcement of the company's 1988 results.

And 1989 looks likely to be even better. For the revolution in television and radio - expected to cause a proliferation of new channels at national and local level - means fresh markets for his products.

The EEC is already our second biggest market outside the UK, but because of demographic problems we want to buy a company over there so that we can have representatives on the spot. Europe will also have language problems, which the Americans do not have. It is not realistic to expect us all to suddenly start speaking fluent French and German, so it makes sense to use locals.

Bid extension plea fails

At least one merchant bank involved in a current bid has approached the Takeover Panel requesting an extension of its timetable because of seasonal congestion in the postal system.

Under the Takeover Code, the 60-day calendar from the posting of the offer document runs with no regard to public holidays, or to the number of accep-

TOKYO

Nikkei surges 182 to record

(Reuter) - The Nikkei index rose to a record close in thin trading on broad-based buying of issues thought likely to gain in the New Year, brokers said. The 225-share Nikkei gained 182.92 points, or 0.61 per cent, to 30,050.93 - just above the previous record close of 30,050.82, set on December 7.

important role in driving the index past 30,000 to the record close - a level many brokers thought auspicious for the New Year. They have been lagging behind other domestic issues and were supported by expectations of stable domestic interest rates.

NEW YORK

Blue chips edge higher after opening losses

(Reuter) - Prices generally turned mixed in early trading with blue chips regaining small, opening losses and moving higher. Analysts said that, in thin trading, small buying was pushing blue chips higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1 point to 2,169.93 at one

stage. American Brands gained 1 1/2 to 69 1/4 after a jump of 10 on Friday. The rises follow talk of a takeover bid from Unilever. Frankfurt (AP-Dow Jones) - The DAX index gained 11.95 points to 1,340.41, passing the previous 1988 high of 1,328.46, set on December 23.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of Unlisted Securities with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

Table of Unlisted Securities with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

Table of Unlisted Securities with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

Table of Unlisted Securities with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of Investment Trusts with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

Table of Investment Trusts with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

THIRD MARKET

Table of Third Market data with columns for Company, Price, Change, etc.

GOLD

Table of Gold prices with columns for Bullion, Coins, etc.

Court of Appeal

Contractors cannot sue engineers

Pacific Associates Inc and Another v Baxter and Others. Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Russell. [Judgment December 15]

Claims by the contractors made under the contract for increases in the rates for the work. The contractors' claim for damages of £45 million against the engineers stated that "by their contractual failure to certify and their rejection of the [contractors'] claims [the engineers] acted negligently and alternatively were in breach of their duty to act fairly and impartially in administering the contract."

Law Report December 28 1988

Ex-owners not liable for fuel

Charrington Fuel Oil Ltd v Farvant Co Ltd and Another. Before Lord Justice Purchas and Lord Justice Russell. [Judgment December 5]

1984. A management company, in which the second defendant had an interest, thereafter became head lessors. Fuel oil for the property had until August 1984 been ordered by the first defendants and credited to their account with the plaintiffs.

Interest term implied in unpaid loan. Baylis and Another v Barnett and Others. Where an employer in 1976 had lent his employee the sum for a six-month period pursuant to an oral agreement which contained no term as to interest, to enable the employee to purchase a home for himself and his wife, the employee would indemnify the employer in respect of the interest which he would have to pay the bank.

Financial prejudice over delay can justify striking out claim. Newman v Hopkins. An increase in a defendant's liability for damages, caused by the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay in bringing the claim to trial, constituted financial prejudice which if it was serious would justify the court in striking out the claim for want of prosecution. However an increase of £11,420 on a claim worth £153,080 (an increase of 7.5 per cent) did not constitute serious prejudice.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a woman's face and text like 'Time to discover', 'Cash looks bull market', 'Easing the pain with Champagne', 'THE T...', 'And g...', 'TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES TRADE ADVERTISERS TEL: 01-481 4481'.

MEDIA & MARKETING

How to get the muesli watchers

Susan d'Arcy examines Channel 4's plans to bring broadsheet television to breakfast time

Channel 4 will be adding the "muesli factor" to the breakfast television menu when it launches its early morning service this spring.

The station has just announced the contracts for the £10 million, seven-day, still unannounced service. The launch date is still under wraps, but it is certain that Channel 4's programme will be aimed at a more sophisticated audience with informative, pacy programmes, offering a departure from the "cosy chat with someone wearing a woolly jumper" tradition of TV-am and the BBC's Breakfast Time.

Breakfast Time was the first of the genre, unexpectedly pipping TV-am to the post with a surprise launch on January 17 in 1983. TV-am came on air shortly afterwards but the BBC's offering, led by Frank Bough and Selina Scott, trounced its rival, grabbing almost 80 per cent of the total audience. Within a year, fortunes had begun to reverse and by the end of 1986 TV-am was commanding a two-thirds share of the ratings. The rise of the ITV programme on the back of Roland Rat is well documented but slightly exaggerated - its success is also due to a reduction in transmission hours of the BBC service.

In keeping with its remit, Channel 4 will not recreate the existing programmes but provide an alternative. The senior commissioning editor, David Lloyd, suspects that "many of those in our audience will be new to breakfast television, or those who tried it early on and rejected it". He believes the service will plug the information gap the other programmes have missed. "Our service will be more of a broadsheet than a tabloid," he says.

Its format will consist initially of four individual programmes, each of between 11 and 15 minutes, linked by a continuity service. These programmes will be repeated several times during the three and a half hour run of transmission in regular slots. The in-house editor, Rachel Atwell,

recently poached from Breakfast Time, where she was deputy editor, explains that this style of programme should help people allocate time in their busy morning schedules to watch specific items, thus securing viewer loyalty. The format also helps to keep down costs.

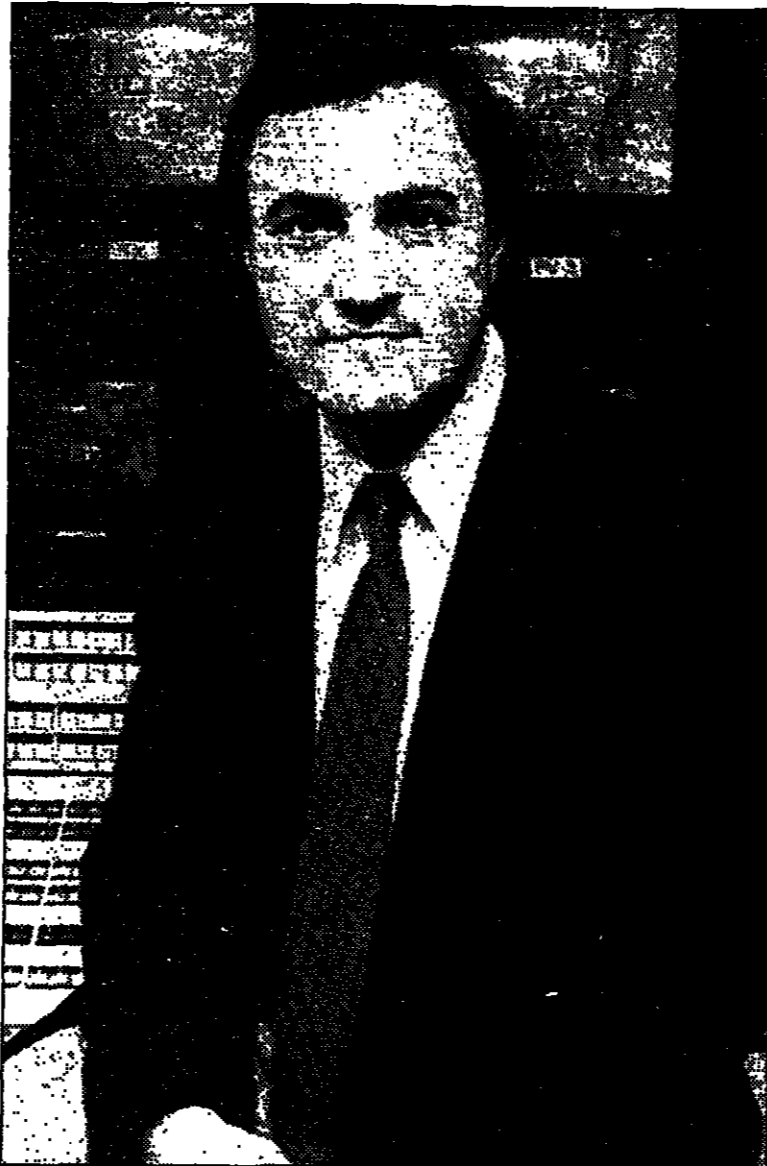
The four basic modules will come from ITN, Mentorn Films, Roach and Partners and Business Television. ITN will produce an international news service with presenters in three locations: London (probably John Suchet), Washington, and somewhere in the Far East. Home news will be treated in the context of its global significance. ITN will also provide headlines on each quarter-hour, and its bidding for the continuity.

Mentorn will provide an arts and entertainment package. "It won't be a listings guide but a critical appraisal of the arts scene," says Mentorn's managing director, Tom Gutteridge. "This is something that is not covered at the moment - certainly the Today programme doesn't cover the arts."

There will also be a daily consumer segment from Roach and Partners, run by Jill Roach, a former producer of John Craven's Newsworld. A business show will come from Business Television, which makes the weekly Business Programme and the lunch-time Business Daily for Channel 4.

The channel is also toying with other ideas, including a mini-soap and a sports service at the weekend, but cannot yet be sure it can afford them until it knows its exact budget (roughly estimated to be between £10 and £12 million). This will be 17 per cent of TV-am's advertising revenues for the year ending on January 31, 1989. In return, TV-am will sell the new channel's advertising space in an arrangement similar to that which Channel 4 has with the ITV network.

Atwell is optimistic about advertising prospects, and believes the segmentation will prove attractive to



John Suchet, who is tipped to join Channel 4's breakfast news service

advertisers, allowing them to target campaigns in specific audiences. The business programme and news section should attract a higher AB audience than TV-am traditionally captures - less than 10 per cent of TV-am's average audience is in the AB bracket.

Its advertising revenue will, of course, depend on the size of its audience, but Lloyd expects a "very respectable" rating: this would presumably fall somewhere close to the BBC's average of about 900,000. Lloyd and Atwell do not see the Radio 4 Today programme, to which the proposed service has been likened, as a threat, but expect people to use both.

Perhaps a more immediate worry for the newcomer will be the revamp of Breakfast Time. Bob Wheaton, formerly editor of the Six o'Clock News and a corporation heavyweight, has been drafted in to give Breakfast Time a "harder news edge". Insiders say the programme will adopt an

American-style rolling news format.

Despite the arrival of a third service, a question mark must remain over whether the battle for supremacy of the sunrise hours is really just a storm in an egg cup. In America and some parts of Europe, breakfast television has become part of the morning ritual, but six years on in Britain the total audience for breakfast television is eight million people spread over more than six hours, whereas in the evenings the combined audience for the Nine o'Clock News and the News at Ten in the space of less than an hour, is more than 15 million.

"Why let your screen be dark when it could be light?" Lloyd asks, claiming that broadcasters are just around the corner from cracking the market. But as Breakfast Time's audience ratings continue to nose-dive, and we enter an age of deregulated, low-budget programmes, perhaps broadcasters short of money will find it necessary to skip breakfast.

Any number can play

Publishers are ready to exploit the end of a TV listings duopoly

Preparations for numerous television listings magazines and supplements are being pushed forward with renewed urgency following a decision by the European Commission last week.

The commission ruled that the BBC, ITP, the publications arm of ITV, and RTE, the Irish state broadcasting company, were wrong to seek an injunction preventing Dublin-based Magill TV Guide from publishing a weekly preview of television in the Irish Republic and Ulster. It has given them two months to say how they intend to comply with the judgement.

But if the eagerness of British publishers to enter the potentially lucrative, but highly competitive, television listings market is anything to go by, the carefully maintained duopoly of the BBC's Radio Times and ITP's TV Times on programme details may well have been overturned by then.

New publications will come in two main categories - free supplements inserted in existing newspapers and magazines, and specially created paid-for publications. Given the Irish nature of the ruling, the first British breach of the duopoly may come in Irish editions of national newspapers. For example, according to News International, all its titles except Today would print television supplements in Glasgow for the Irish market. But ITP's managing director, Bill O'Neill, stresses: "We don't propose to go off at half-cock or blatantly breach copyright law."

It has been suggested that publishers will carry copy-righted programme information from the BBC and ITV under licence. Details of the licensing fees have yet to be arranged, and could form the basis of the broadcasters' reply to Brussels.

Apart from News International, Associated Newspapers has plans on the drawing board for a You magazine insert, as part of the Mail on Sunday package. One source suggests the same insert might go in another Associated publication, Titbits. Newspapers with newly established Saturday supplements - The Daily Telegraph, The Independent and The



TV Times: its market not readily give up its market dominance

out of the newsgapers' shelves by publishing additional market-specific magazines. For example, ITP could turn Char into a female-oriented television listings tabloid.

Competition will come from Murdoch Magazines, which is recruiting staff for a television entertainment magazine, along the lines of owner Rupert Murdoch's recent US acquisition, TV Guide, but not necessarily the same format. Believed to be initially geared to the launch of Murdoch's Astra satellite in February, it could easily be expanded to carry terrestrial listings. West German magazine publishers also hope to secure a slot in the market.

Others with dummies ready are IPC, which published TV World for Late Grade in the mid-1960s, and is keen, under chief executive John Mellon, to get back in the field; EMAP, a natural for the youth-oriented television listings market; and Time Out, which has led the campaign to overturn the duopoly.

Supplanting Radio Times and TV Times will not be easy or cheap. Collating and regionalizing information is a substantial publishing enterprise. TV Times currently uses 40 sub-editors to produce 400 editorial pages in 13 editions.

Andrew Lycett

Today newspaper advertisement for an Assistant Librarian position. Includes details about the role, salary, and contact information for Mr B Clifford.

Large advertisement for Colmore Associates mortgage services. Features a prominent '11.75%' interest rate and details about fixed rate mortgages with no deferred payments.

Overseas Property advertisement listing various real estate opportunities in France, Spain, Malta, and other international locations.

Advertisement for a Major Career Opportunity, offering an international launch of a unique innovative product range with limitless applications.

Advertisement for a Trilingual Receptionist position, requiring German and Japanese or French fluency, with contact information for Carole Allen.

Advertisement for Docklands and Country Properties, listing various real estate listings in Wapping, Chelsea, and other areas.

Advertisement for Rentals, featuring Robert Bruce and Partners, offering a large selection of property from family houses to one bedroom flats.

